

Approved For Release 2005/01/10 : CIA-RDP84-00951R000100020059-70-2964

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Machine Methods Branch, OCD

DATE: 14 January 1949

FROM : Chief, Index Division

SUBJECT: Report on inspection of progress of special equipment being
manufactured by [redacted] for Machine Methods Branch,
OCD, CIA

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1. Subject inspection was made on Monday, January 10, 1949.

2. Library Recorders.

Development of electronics, housings and mechanical parts for the Library Recorders has been completed and the fabrication of all necessary parts is completed. This machine was seen in operation and performing in an exceedingly satisfactory manner. This inspector's opinion of this machine is that it functions perfectly and far exceeds the fondest expectations we originally had for this machine. It is recommended that the [redacted] be congratulated for the wonderful job they have done on this machine, having put all the engineering knowhow at their command over and above what would have been required in order that this machine perform according to our specifications and have made it in such a manner that it is even better than what is essentially required.

3. Card Scanners.

Much progress has been made on this machine. All detail drawings are completed and are in the machine shop being fabricated. Approximately 70% of the fabrication is completed; of the 30% remaining, such items as castings and optics, which have to be made by sub-contractors, comprise the major portion. Procurement of special materials required to fabricate a few items has been difficult but is moving satisfactorily.

The electronics required for this machine have been worked out and tested now to a point where they are deemed complete. Laboratory gear has been set up and the scanner has been connected to the completed Library Recorder with test results obtained proving to be of very high quality.

An interesting finding of the development of the scanner is the fact that the definition or resolution required in the optical system no longer has a direct bearing on the printing speeds but rather the mechanics of the printing mechanism itself is the only limiting factor.

A schedule for the completion of the scanner is presently being established by [redacted] Director of Research and Development for [redacted] in accordance with the request made by Services Branch, CIA and will be forthcoming shortly, probably in the next week.

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4. Facsimile Offset Master Printer.

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Experiments are underway endeavoring to tie facsimile scanning and Xerography together as a method of overcoming the problems of engineering the printing mechanism in this machine. Thus far it appears as though some promise of developing such a solution in this machine is forthcoming. It is mainly on this phase of the development that the engineer from [redacted] is working.

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5. Progress report by [redacted]

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A progress report in the form of a demonstration of the first phase of the development, namely, the exhibition of the laboratory model of the card scanner and the completed Library Recorder is being planned to be presented here in CIA during the week beginning Monday January 31, 1949. This demonstration is being arranged to allow the people in CIA who are interested in this development to have a pre-view of what the finished product will ultimately be capable of accomplishing and will be presented in lieu of furnishing CIA with a laboratory model as was originally contemplated since it is believed that the finished machine is now just a matter of final assembly and test during the next few months after which time it will be completely turned over to CIA.

6. Conclusion.

It was indeed gratifying and thrilling to see the first phase of this development actually operating and with such fine quality results being obtained since it portends the completion in finished form of this phase in the very near future and illustrates the all out effort that the people of the [redacted] have been and are putting into the job.

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